

ISRAEL HAS THE RIGHT TO
DEFEND ITSELF**HON. LOU BARLETTA**OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Friday, July 25, 2014*

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, Hamas, which was designated as a terrorist organization by the United States under President Bill Clinton, has a history of using schools, hospitals, and civilian areas as staging grounds and launch sites for their attacks against Israel. They have also built a network of tunnels under those locations to facilitate the movement of soldiers and weapons for use against Israel. When Israel responds to these attacks by specifically targeting the missile launchers, Hamas uses human shields—many times children—as propaganda tools. The civilized world should be horrified at such tactics by Hamas and condemn them absolutely.

Just recently, I cosponsored a resolution that reaffirms Israel's right to defend itself, and I would note that they have shown incredible restraint in fighting back. They give ample warning prior to an attack, advising all innocent parties to flee. In truth, if Israel were as indiscriminate as Hamas and used all the military might at their disposal, Gaza would be a smoking wasteland within hours. That this has not happened is testament to Israel's care in targeting only areas that have been used as attack launch points. The United States must speak with one voice on this issue and stand with our strong ally Israel.

HONORING JUDGE IVORY E.
BRITTON**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Friday, July 25, 2014*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Judge Ivory Britton, a Justice Court Judge of District 2, who is a native Jacksonian.

Judge Britton was reared on Tougaloo Street in the Virden Addition Community.

Judge Britton attended Brinkley Elementary School, which is now Walton Elementary School, and graduated from Brinkley High School. He attended: the University of Judicial Court, National Judicial College, Reno, NV, National Judges Association, American Judges Association, and National Center for State Courts.

As a Justice Court Judge, Britton works hard to ensure fair and equal treatment for all litigants of his court. He has increased his knowledge of the judicial process to enable citizens to easily use the Justice Court System. Judge Britton will continue to be fair and accessible to all citizens and be knowledgeable and obedient to the laws of The State of Mississippi.

Judge Britton is married to Liza Britton and they have three children: Perry, Dexter and Tabathia. He is a member of Cade Chapel M. B. Church.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Judge Ivory E. Britton.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCEOF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Friday, July 25, 2014*

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed one vote on July 24. Had I been present, on rollcall No. 449, H.R. 3393, the Student and Family Tax Simplification Act, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING MS. LUCY COFFEY,
AMERICA'S OLDEST LIVING FEMALE
VETERAN**HON. LAMAR SMITH**OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Friday, July 25, 2014*

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today we honor America's oldest living female veteran, Ms. Lucy Coffey of San Antonio, TX.

Ms. Coffey, who is 108 years old and lives in my Congressional district, is in Washington today and tomorrow to visit the WWII Memorial, the Women's Veterans Memorial and Arlington Cemetery.

Ms. Coffey served honorably in the Women's Army Corps during WWII. Serving mainly in the Pacific theater, she was awarded two Bronze Stars for valor. After the war, she continued serving her country, working at Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio for twenty years until retiring in the early seventies.

The United States is stronger today because of the sacrifices all our veterans have made. And Ms. Coffey exemplifies what is best about our veterans and our great nation.

It is with great appreciation and admiration that today we recognize and honor Ms. Lucy Coffey.

HONORING DR. VINCENT HARDING

HON. BARBARA LEEOF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Friday, July 25, 2014*

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Dr. Vincent Harding. Known throughout the country as a scholar, activist, father, friend and former speechwriter for Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King Jr., Dr. Harding has left an indelible mark on our national discourse. With his passing on May 19, 2014, we look to the outstanding quality of his life's work and the inspiring role he played in the Civil Rights Movement.

Born on July 25, 1931 in Harlem, New York, Dr. Vincent Harding began his education by attending New York public schools, graduating from Morris High School in 1948. After high school, he obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from the City College of New York, and in the following year, he graduated from Columbia University, earning a Master's degree in Journalism. Dr. Harding went on to

serve our country in the United States Army from 1953 to 1955.

In 1958, Dr. Harding met Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. who urged him to move to the South to join in the Civil Rights Movement. Once in Atlanta, Dr. Harding and his wife, Rosemarie, founded the Mennonite House, an interracial service center and began engaging in a wide variety of social and political campaigns. Dr. Harding worked closely with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and the Student Nonviolent Coordination Committee to challenge segregation in the South.

As Dr. Martin Luther King's speechwriter, Dr. Vincent Harding drafted the famous and highly controversial speech, "Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence." Dr. Vincent Harding was a strong opponent to the Vietnam War and, as Chair of the History and Sociology Department at Atlanta's Spelman College, Dr. Harding was concerned that students were not aware of the situation in Vietnam. He worked to ensure that students and other Americans were aware of the atrocities occurring during the war in Vietnam.

Dr. Vincent Harding founded the Veterans of Hope Project in 1997, which is a multifaceted educational initiative encompassing the topics of religion, culture and participatory democracy. His work through Veterans of Hope emphasized the importance of nonviolence and a grass root approach to social change.

After the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968, Dr. Vincent Harding worked with Coretta Scott King to establish the King Center in Atlanta, serving as the Center's first director. In addition, Dr. Vincent Harding wrote several books reflecting on the Civil Rights Movement and Martin Luther King Jr., including "Martin Luther King: The Inconvenient Hero" and "Hope and History: Why We Must Share the Story of the Movement." Dr. Harding was deeply passionate about public service and impacted countless lives with his theology, activism and scholarly efforts. Dr. Harding once wrote that "we are all a part of one another, and we are all part of the intention of the great creator spirit to continue being light and life."

On a personal note, Dr. Harding was a loyal friend for over 30 years. During the late 1970's, I worked on Capitol Hill for Congressman Ron Dellums while raising two sons as a single parent. My sons wanted to attend the Penn Relays in Philadelphia, but we did not have a place to stay. A mutual friend called Vincent and Rosemarie to ask if we could stay with them. With no hesitation, they said yes, not knowing me and on short notice. I will always remember that weekend in their beautiful, warm home and their delicious meals. They treated us like family and our spirits connected. I did not see Vincent and Rosemarie again until the late 1990's when, as a Member of Congress, I attended a retreat in Santa Barbara sponsored by the Faith and Politics Institute. The Harding's led this retreat, which renewed my spirit, challenged my intellect and warmed my heart.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District salutes and honors an outstanding Civil Rights leader and social activist, Dr. Vincent Harding. His dedication and efforts have impacted so many lives throughout the nation. I join all of Vincent's loved ones in celebrating his incredible life. He will be deeply missed.